

Town of Maynard
MAYNARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, April 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Jack MacKeen at 7:03pm via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack MacKeen, Priscilla Sandberg, Ellen Duggan, Lee Caras, Paul Boothroyd, Ann Gibson, Brion Berghaus, and Paul Lesage

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Courville and John Brandon

GUESTS: Kathleen Kelly Broomer and Dorothy Spaulding

Ellen made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the March 16th meeting. It was seconded by Paul B. and approved.

CURRENT TOPICS

Applying for National Register Status:

Jack introduced Kathy Broomer who spoke about the application process.

An application for NR status is the natural follow-up to a MACRIS inventory survey of a property or area. The approval process is two-tiered, beginning at the MA Historical Commission, which decides if a nomination can proceed. If so, it goes to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., for final approval.

If Maynard is considering a single building, it is important that it be historically significant and that it has historical integrity—that any alterations are at least 50 years old, that its interior is preserved, and that it has its original siding and windows.

The three major steps the Commission must take to confirm a candidate for State consideration:

1-identify it

2- communicate with the owner and get an approval letter (can't proceed without permission). If it is a town-owned building, must get an approval letter from the Select Board/School Committee. If a district is targeted, a simple majority of building owners must approve.

3-ask the MA Commission, first by email, to evaluate the candidate. Kathy will send us a copy of a standard email detailing submission documents, including the MACRIS form, current photos of exterior and interior, historical photos, and an approval letter from the building owner.

In Kathy's opinion, it is much preferable for a Commission to do these very time-consuming steps itself rather than hiring a consultant to do them. The State acts much faster on non-consultant applications. However, there is no guarantee that a particular property will be accepted regardless of who does the application.

Kathy will send us the form letter that goes to a property owner. It details what NR designation does or doesn't mean.

Questions from the group: Regarding St. Bridget's—Kathy said that first we would have to have Boston Archdiocese approval. Regarding the State Register of Historic Places—it doesn't list MACRIS entries. (Jack sends the annual State Register to the Maynard Library.). Regarding NR designation for a park—Kathy said the State would ask if it was a designed landscape. Regarding NR for the downtown business district—Kathy said that with a MACRIS area form, it would be a candidate.

Jack concluded the discussion noting that we would be doing additional MACRIS entries and would contact Kathy regarding possible work.

Mill Curfew Bell Update: Jack reported that the bell is 30" in diameter and weighs 600 lbs. The rigging company recommends that it be secured to a built stand (sketch provided by them) and be moved to the Library as a single unit. Discussion followed about cost and carpenters.
ACTION: Paul will decide on a carpenter.

FY21 Historical Markers: There was discussion of approvals received/not yet received, and the various development stages individual markers were in. All comments about markers should be sent to Ann so that layouts can be finalized at the May Commission meeting. EXHIBITS: drafts of markers were provided by email to the group prior to this meeting.

Resource Notebook for Commission elected positions and meeting procedures: EXHIBIT: draft document was provided to the group prior to this meeting. Jack asked Priscilla to review the draft again with an aim to have less content and more references to the Commission's section of the Town website.

MACRIS: Ellen suggested we work on identifying new candidates.

NEW ITEMS

Mill Marker Dedication plans: Jack will urge Justin to have a DPW crew get the installation done. He asked Ellen to draw up a draft outline for the dedication ceremony.

Founders' Day Celebration recap: All in attendance felt the celebration was extremely well-planned and exciting to attend.

Historically Significant Properties annual update: Jack asked that everyone review the current list prior to the May meeting, when the list will be discussed. Voting on any changes to the list will be done at the June meeting and communicated to the Building Commissioner and Office of Municipal Services by memo. Ann will update the current HSP owners list.

Open Meeting Law training review: Jack reiterated information regarding minutes and exhibits in particular.

OTHER

Paul B., mentioned that an Isaac Newton apple tree, a gift of the Maynard family in honor of the passing of Susan Maynard, was in need of attention at the Maynard family tomb compound. Lee agreed to review the situation.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul B., seconded by Lee and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:06pm.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: June 15, and September 21, 2021.

